

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

SAB-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 EUR-12 AF-06 /098 W

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R 141411Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9212

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0500

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS: CONTINUING COVERAGE OF LEBANESE CRISIS

REF: A. CAIRO 0436 B. CAIRO 0435

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. CAIRO PRESS JANUARY 14 CONTINUES TO GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS. IN ADDITION TO SADAT'S REMARKS IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH CANADIAN FONMIN (SEPTEL) AND DEPRIMIN:FONMIN FAHMY'S JANUARY 13 RADIO INTERVIEW (REF A), PAPERS ALSO REPORT CONTACTS OF ARAB LEAGUE SYG MAHMUD RIAD JANUARY 13 WITH LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO AND FATAH CAIRO REPRESENTATIVE RIBHI 'AWAD ON DETERIORATING SITUATION IN LEBANON. LATTER REPORTEDLY GAVE RIAD MESSAGE FROM PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT SIMILAR TO JANUARY 12 MESSAGE TO GOE (REF B), WARNING OF DANGERS OF LEBANESE ARMY INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING. 'AWAD REPORTEDLY HAS ASKED ICRC REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN CAIRO TO PROVIDE BLOOD PLASMA FOR THOSE WOUNDED IN LEBANESE FIGHTING.

2. ACCORDING TO AKHBAR, RIAD SAID LEBANESE SITUATION NECESSITATES IMMEDIATE HOLDING OF ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE,
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BUT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL RULES REQUIRE MEMBER STATES AND

NOT SYG EXTEND INVITATION. AHRAM REPORTED THAT MAHMUD RIAD WILL BEGIN TODAY URGENT CONTACTS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF FINDING FORMULA TO STOP FIGHTING IN LEBANON.

3. AHRAM EDITORIAL CHARGES THAT LEBANESE TRAGEDY IS RESULT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF "DESTRUCTIVE PLAN" BY MANY PARTIES, LEBANESE AND INTERNATIONAL, WHOSE AIM IS TO EXHAUST ARAB FORCES AND DIVERT ARAB ATTENTION FROM ARAB CAUSE VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL. PHALANGISTS AND CHAMOUNISTS DELIBERATELY ADDING FUEL TO FIRE. AHRAM SUPPORTS EGYPT'S STAND FOR SOLUTION OF LEBANESE PROBLEM THROUGH DIALOGUE AMONG CONTENDING FACTIONS WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION AND FOR FOILING ATTEMPTS TO INVOLVE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE IN THE FRAY.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. DAO IS REPORTING SEPARATELY ON RUMORS OF MOVEMENT SIXTH FLEET TOWARD LEBANON BEING SPREAD BY EASTERN EUROPEAN MILITARY ATTACHES. TO DATE SUCH RUMORS HAVE NOT RPT NOT APPEARED IN PRESS.

5. COMMENT: GOE HAS APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN GOADING SYG RIAD INTO FURTHER ACTION TO FIND FORMULA FOR RESCUING LEBANON. THERE IS NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, EITHER RIAD OR GOE HAVE ANY NEW FORMULA TO PUT FORWARD. END CONFIDENTIAL. EILTS

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